

Message Text

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EA - MR. SNEIDER

L/PM - MR. MICHEL

NAVY/OP-61 - CAPT. ARMEL

ISA/EA&P - MR. RIDGE

NAVY/OP-941 - LCDR ALVARADO

----- 064325

R 171704Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E HOLT NORTH WEST CAPE

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, AS,

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST CAPE SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS

REF: CANBERRA 2309

1. STATE 62034 OUTLINED THE PROCEDURES WHICH THE US NAVY HAD PROPOSED FOR WORKING OUT WITH THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY (RAN) NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAKING NORTH WEST CAPE A JOINT FACILITY. THIS NAVY-TO-NAVY CHANNEL HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SCHLESINGER-BARNARD JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED IN EARLY JANUARY. AS NOTED IN PARA 4 OF STATE 62034, THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAD ALREADY BEGUN BY MARCH. CONSEQUEN-
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TLY, WE VIEW AUSTRALIAN NOTE QUOTED IN REFTEL AS MERELY

CONFIRMING WHAT HAS IN FACT BEEN HAPPENING.

2. US NAVY "NEGOTIATING TEAM" HAS SO FAR CONSISTED OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT NWC AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AS APPROPRIATE. THERE WAS NEVER ANY INTENTION TO SEND A FORMAL US NEGOTIATING TEAM FROM WASHINGTON. ON THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE, CAPT. ROBERTSON, RAN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS STATIONED IN CANBERRA, IS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR. ROBERTSON WILL HAVE A PROJECT OFFICER ASSIGNED TO NWC IN JULY 1974 TO ASSIST WITH DETAILED PLANNING FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS.

3. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. AYRES, JR., PRESENTLY ON ADMIRAL BAGLEY'S STAFF AT CINCUSNAVEUR, WILL REPLACE CAPT. CUNNINGHAM IN AUG OR SEP. CAPT. AYRES WILL BE BRIEFED IN STATE AND DEFENSE, AND HE WILL CONSULT WITH THE EMBASSY AT AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY AFTER ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA. RUSH

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